Record and Chronicle

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Dr. Carl G. Burdick contributes the following to our Special Feature Department:

May 20th was a banner day for some of us. With Col. Bradley Coley as our guest, Roly Maier, F. Wilson Keller and yours truly had a delightful visit with Lt. Col. Vansel Johnson at the Halloran General Hospital on Staten Island.

This hospital was first started by the State as an institution for feeble-minded children but before its completion the Government took it over and intends to make it into one of the largest general hospitals in the country. The Commanding Officer, Colonel DeVoe came to this post from Camp Dix and brought Lt. Col. Johnson with him as Chief of the Surgical Service. Johnnie was one of the first from our hospital to enter active military service and has done a swell job in his present position.

The main surgical building of Halloran had several hundred patients chiefly from North Africa and some from the Solomons. All of the buildings are permanent structures and are well designed. They are spread over many acres and when the landscaping is completed, this will be one of the garden spots of the Army.

We were fortunate to be there on a day when some 30 injured boys were decorated with the order of the Purple Heart by Colonel DeVoe. Four battalions, one of officers, one of nurses and two of enlisted men, stood at attention during the ceremony and then passed in review before the Commanding Officer and the decorated soldiers. Our Johnnie ran the show.

We arrived back at this hospital for the clinical conference followed by an interesting talk by Colonel Coley.

Carl G. Burdick

Since we were interested in the decoration of the Purple Heart, we looked up its history at the New York Public Library and pass this information on, as it also may be of interest to our civilian readers.

The official order of George Washington establishing the first American decoration was issued from his headquarters at Newburgh, New York, August 7, 1782, and read in part as follows: "The General, ever desirous to cherish a virtuous ambition of his soldiers, as well as foster and encourage every species of military merit, directs that, whenever any singularly meritorious action is performed, the author of it shall be permitted to wear on his facings, over the left breast, the figure of a heart in purple cloth or silk, edged with narrow lace or binding. Not only instances of unusual gallantry, but also of extraordinary fidelity and essen-

tial service in any way, shall meet with due reward".

Apparently, owing to the confusion and unsettled conditions following the close of the Revolution, many records of the Continental Army became lost or were destroyed for so far as known, surviving records show only three men were granted the Purple Heart.

Although the Purple Heart was never officially abolished, it appears that that decoration fell into disuse or was forgotten, as no further awards were granted after the close of the war. Then after a lapse of nearly a century and a half, attention was called to this historical American decoration. As a result, the two hundredth anniversary of George Washington's birth was selected as most appropriate for its re-institution. And on February 22, 1932 the following order was published by the War Department. "By order of the President of the United States, the Purple Heart established by General George Washington at Newburgh August 17, 1782 during the War of the Revolution is hereby revived out of respect to his memory and military achievements". The regulation governing the award of the revived decoration authorized it as follows: "The acts or services performed prior to February 22, 1932, the Purple Heart is conferred to those persons, who, as members of the Army, were awarded the Meritorious Service Citation Certificate by the Commander-in-Chief of the American Expeditionary Force, or who were wounded in action in any war or campaign under conditions which entitled them to wear a wound chevron".

"For acts or services performed subsequent to February 22, 1932, the decoration is authorized to be awarded to persons who, while serving in the Army of the United States, perform any singularly meritorious act of extraordinary fidelity or essential service".

We have heard that Major Jack Sullivan is now taking a three months training course at the School of Aviation Medicine, San Antonio, Texas. Mrs. Sullivan is with him.

Miss Arline Frank and Miss Josephine Guariglia are leaving today to spend their vacation in Sacramento, California.

We are glad to have Mrs. Eleanor Walsh Lyden back on the job. Son J.P. is doing nicely.

Major Ernie Myers from Bushnell General Hospital, Brigham Utah, stopped in the hospital on May 26th and 27th on his way to Washington where he expects to see Tommy Thompson. He reports that he may get a 500 bed extension for orthopaedics for his hospital in Utah. We were all glad to see Major Myers.

In the last issue of the R. & C., we told you about the quiz program to "stump the experts" held at a joint session of the Section of Radiology and Orthopaedic Surgery during the annual convention of the Medical Society of the State of New York in Buffalo, but we left out the point of our story, which was that Ray Lewis was one of the two experts on the quiz program. We are told he was the "John Kieran" of the program.

Major "Clark Gable" Rizzo stopped in on May 22nd in his new Major's uniform to say good bye.

at the end of the line for the cases from the surrounding hospitals, general hospitals on the coast, and receive patients from as far west as Australia. Many of my cases today received their primary treatment from Fritz and believe me they all have nothing but praise and gratitude. With the exception of having no neurosurgeon, the only shortage is, as you would expect, in orthopaedic surgery. There are only four of us who handle about 600 patients and the situation becames unwieldy at times particularly when large convoys of patients arrive. I am a ward surgeon and have charge of two wards with a census which has been as high as 180". After mentioning about the nursing and the corpsmen, Bill adds, "I have one enlisted man who is well trained in the handling of splints and dressings. Another is quite handy with plaster. The other three officers have roughly the same setup and we assist each other in surgery". He states that his cases are divided into two groups, "disposition cases", and cases which present definite pathology. Of the latter group about half have been injured in surrounding training areas. The rest are from combat areas. "The latter group are to a man the finest type of American boys and they are a real pleasure to treat. These cases from the battle front are very impressive in that they present bone and soft tissue defects such as I have never seen". He adds, "It has been a year of great surgical experience and I have enjoyed living here and working with the men in the hospital, but one cannot read the names in the Chronicle which have A.P.O. numbers without longing for some salt air." When Colonel Coley visited us, he told us about the fine work that Bill is doing at Beaumont Hospital.

Lieut. Florence Winter dropped in to pay us a visit on May 20th. She looks pretty swell in her new uniform as Physical Therapy Aide. Did the male hearts flutter this time? I'll say they did. She seemed relieved that the Army is going to get rid of the Parent Teachers Association (Physical Therapy Aide) insignia and will issue the same uniforms as Army nurses which is olive drab. Then ensued a long conversation on uniforms, women's styles, etc. between the Editor's secretary and Lieut. Winter. We learned that their dress uniform will be a beige color. The Editor's secretary was quite envious of her pretty blue uniform and especially the description of the dress uniform, but we hope that she felt better when she was told that girls in the service look forward to Saturday nights when they are allowed to doff their uniforms and at social affairs wear regular civilian evening dresses, which change they enjoy very much. Lieut. Winter says that at Camp Blanding they are still talking about Major Lowell Thomas and what a fine fellow and surgeon he is, and that also many doctors give fine reports of the training and fatherly advice they received when they trained under Colonel Thompson at Walter Reed. We also learned that the Head Physical Therapy Aide at the camp is Lieut. Fairbanks who is a graduate of Brother Hansson's School of Physical Therapy Technicians.

Lieut. Don Francis writes Dr. Wilson from the Station Hospital, West Los Angeles Area, Sawtelle, California. He writes, "We are in some permanent buildings which the Veterans Administration leased to the Army. There are no troops stationed here, but we serve a lot of troops stationed around and in Los Angeles and we take care of all the men who come into Los Angeles on leave. They are constantly getting banged up and that has made the orthopaedic service very active. . . . We see a lot of good orthopaedic material in our out-patient clinic. Since I have been here, I have handled every major fracture possible several times and cannot praise the experience too highly". He states that Mrs. Francis and the children are with him and that they are all fine.

We learn from Dr. Ramsay Straub, who has received a letter from Ted Lynn, that Ted has received a Captain's commission. Congratulations.

By the end of the week, we are closing Ward 10, the Sister Kenny Ward. That patients Brother Hansson has not cured will be sent to convalescent hospitals. We hope to be able to reopen the ward in the fall for the Kenny treatment. Ward 5 is also being closed in order to be able to grant vacations to the personnel.

The Hospital Association of the State of New York held its convention at the Pennsylvania Hotel May 26th, 27th, and 28th. F. Wilson Keller, the Director of the hospital, was elected a member of the Board of Trustees of the Association.

Corporal Bill Phillips, our former cook, stopped in to visit all his friends on May 28th while on a seven day furlough from Ft. Jackson, S.C. He makes a snappy looking soldier and we were all glad to see him. He says that he is doing some cooking for the Army in the Station Hospital and goes along as cook when on maneuvers. He states that he likes the Army all right but the training is tough for a man over 28 especially when it comes to the forced marches of 15 miles in 4 hours or 9 miles in 2 hours as he has done lately on a number of occasions.

Dr. and Mrs. Earl E. VanDerwerker have announced the engagement of their daughter, Miss Jean VanDerwerker, to Leonard Burgess. Jean is working with us as a medical secretary in the Record Room and Leonard is our student intern.

The Editor has received a letter from Signe Brunnstrom. Miss Brunnstrom was formerly stationed as a Physical Therapy Aide at the Station Hospital, Sheppard Field, Texas. She is now on a short vacation, but on June 5th she will report to the U. S. Naval Reserve Midshipmen's School, Smith College, Northampton, Mass. She has been sworn in as a A.S. V-9, (Officer Candidate) U.S.N.R. After four weeks of training, at Smith College, she expects to be assigned to a Naval Hospital as a Physical Therapy Technician.

The windows of the hospital are being weatherstripped with metal weatherstripping, which we are fortunate to obtain at this time, in preparation for the winter months, but the thought of the coming winter does not seem to offer any comfort whatsoever for the high temperatures and the humidity we have been experiencing for the last few days.

Potatoes and gasoline are still scarce. Remember when the grocer would stick a potato over the kerosene can spigot each time you bought a gallon, and there are no parking problems in front of the hospital these days either.

Frank Teague who finished his Residency on April 30th is now at the City Hospital, Indianapolis, Indiana. He writes, "the work at the City Hospital has been very heavy and we have had long days. We operate on Wednesdays and Saturdays and have Clinic on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday mornings. There are about 60 cases on the orthopaedic service with three interns and one Resident besides myself." He is certainly lucky to have such a large staff of assistants. We sincerely hope that he can keep them.

There appeared in the New York Herald Tribune of May 25th a picture of the Duke and Duchess of Windsor receiving from Dr. Philip D. Wilson, Advisory Chairman of the Medical and Surgical Relief Committee of America, an emergency field set to treat torpedoed survivors who are landed at Nassau. The picture was snapped as Dr. Wilson was handing the kit to the Duke and looking and smiling at the Duchess.

Dr. Wilson has received a letter from Lieut. Bill Duncan stationed at William Beaumont General Hospital, El Paso, Texas. He writes, "William Beaumont is one of the old general hospitals. The equipment is excellent throughout and there is everything here essential to orthopaedic surgery, including physical therapy, a pool, occupational therapy, and a brace shop. There are very few fresh cases with the exception of those flown in from the surrounding maneuver areas. We are

The clinics will be closed on Saturdays during June, July, August and September.

We would like to know the name of the policeman who was stationed outside of the Grand Central one evening last week, as we would like to send him a letter of thanks. A man approached him this particular evening stating that he was an orderly who had just come from upstate and wanted to know where there was a hospital in which he might get a job. We are certainly glad the New York City police are so well informed, for he sent him over to us and we put him to work right away.

This reminds us of a story which was told at the New York State Hospital Association Convention. It seems that there was a policeman who found great personal satisfaction in helping other people. One day he met a doctor friend of his who was pretty down in the dumps and blue. He prevailed upon the doctor to tell him his troubles and the doctor told him how hard he was working covering not only his own practice, but also the practice of a couple of his colleagues who had gone in the service, and that he was finding great difficulty in covering this practice and getting his patients into the hospital which was crowded and had a waiting list. After talking with the officer, the doctor left feeling much better. A few days later, the policeman met a Director of Nurses who was also pretty blue. He told her that he might be able to help her if she would confide her troubles in him. She told him of all the difficulties she was having with the shortage of nurses, orderlies, and other nursing personnel, and that the doctors still seemed to be sending in more patients than ever. After listening to her story, he was able to cheer her up and she in turn felt much better and relieved. One afternoon this policeman on his day off was walking across the George Washington Bridge. When he reached the middle of the bridge, he saw a man who was about to jump off. He approached him and persuaded him to reconsider, suggesting that they go over to the New Jersey side and sit down and talk matters over. After the policeman had listened to this man's troubles for about ten minutes, they walked back to the middle of the bridge, and both the policeman and the hospital superintendent jumped off. We are all confronted with additional problems these days. Maybe you can fit this story into your difficulties and feel better by the telling of it.